

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 1787
93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Reported from the Committee on Pensions, Veterans' Affairs and General Laws, April 12, 2006, with recommendation that the Senate Committee Substitute do pass and be placed on the Consent Calendar.

5137S.07C

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

AN ACT

To amend chapter 620, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the guard at home program, with an emergency clause.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 620, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new
2 section, to be known as section 620.515, to read as follows:

**620.515. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the
2 "Guard at Home" program whose purpose is to:**

3 **(1) Assist the spouse of an active duty national guard or reserve
4 component service member reservist to address immediate needs and
5 employment in an attempt to keep the family from falling into poverty
6 while the primary income earner is on active duty; and**

7 **(2) Assist returning national guard troops with finding work in
8 situations where an individual needs to rebuild business clientele or
9 where an individual's job has been eliminated while such individual
10 was deployed.**

11 **2. Subject to appropriation, the department of economic
12 development shall enter into a contract with qualified providers
13 through local workforce investment boards to provide the guard at
14 home program. The department shall develop the criteria of the
15 contract based on the following criteria:**

16 **(1) Eligible participants in the program shall be those families
17 where:**

18 **(a) The primary income earner was called to active duty in
19 defense of the United States for a period of more than four months;**

20 (b) The family's primary income is no longer available;

21 (c) The family is experiencing significant hardship due to
22 financial burdens; and

23 (d) The family has no outside resources available to assist with
24 such hardships;

25 (2) Services that may be provided to the family will be aimed at
26 ameliorating the immediate crisis and providing a path for economic
27 stability while the primary income is not available due to the active
28 military commitment. Services may include, but not be limited to the
29 following:

30 (a) Financial assistance to families facing financial crisis from
31 overdue bills due to reduced income after the deployment of a spouse;

32 (b) Help paying daycare costs to pursue training and or
33 employment;

34 (c) Help covering the costs of transportation to training and or
35 employment;

36 (d) Vocational evaluation and vocational counseling to help the
37 individual choose a visible employment goal;

38 (e) Vocational training to acquire or upgrade skills needed to be
39 marketable in the workforce;

40 (f) Paid internships and subsidized employment to train on the
41 job; and

42 (g) Job placement assistance for those who don't require skills
43 training;

44 (3) The department shall ensure the eligible providers are:

45 (a) Community-based not-for-profit agencies which have
46 significant experience in job training, placement, and social services;

47 (b) Providers with extensive experience providing such services
48 to veterans and implementing contracts with veteran organizations
49 such as the department of veteran affairs;

50 (c) Providers which have attained the distinction of being
51 accredited through a national accreditation body for training and or
52 human services;

53 (d) Providers which are able to provide a twenty percent match
54 to the program either through indirect or direct expenditures; and

55 (e) Providers with experience in the regions targeted for the
56 program.

57 **3. The department shall structure the contract such that**
58 **payment will be based on delivering the services described in this**
59 **section as well as performance to guarantee the greatest possible**
60 **effectiveness of the program.**

61 **4. Because of the important nature of this program to the health**
62 **and welfare of Missourians, this section shall become effective on July**
63 **1, 2006. The department shall make every reasonable effort to ensure**
64 **that the guard at home program is serving families by August 1, 2006.**

65 **5. The department shall prepare a report on the operations and**
66 **progress of the program to be delivered to the speaker of the house of**
67 **representatives and the president pro tem of the senate no later than**
68 **January 1, 2007.**

 Section B. Because immediate action is necessary to protect the health
2 and welfare of Missouri national guard troops and reservists, section A of this act
3 is deemed necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, welfare,
4 peace, and safety, and is hereby declared to be an emergency act within the
5 meaning of the constitution, and section A of this act shall be in full force and
6 effect on July 1, 2006, or upon its passage and approval.

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